



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

KL

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,173	01/18/2002	Takeshi Tanimoto	020049	1344

23850 7590 03/28/2002

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP
1725 K STREET, NW.
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

BRASE, SANDRA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 03/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/050,173	TANIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Sandra L. Brase	Art Unit 2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Figure 14 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities.

The Summary of Invention is not considered to be clear and concise as required by M.P.E.P. 608.01(d), which states that the Summary of Invention should describe the subject matter of the invention in one or more clear concise sentences or paragraphs.

On page 14 the sentence appearing on lines 3-5, which refers to claim 1, should be deleted.

On page 14 the sentence appearing on lines 13-14, which refers to claim 2, should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. (US 5,327,339).

Takeda et al. (...339) disclose an image forming apparatus comprising: a photosensitive member (3) adapted to have an electrostatic latent image carried thereon; a developing unit (figure 6) including a developer carrying member (22) rotatable in a direction (b) against gravity at a point closest to the photosensitive member (col. 13, lines 26-30), and a cover for sealing a developer to be conveyed by the developer carrying member therein (figure 6), where the developer carrying member carries and conveys the developer stored in the cover to develop the electrostatic latent image on the photosensitive member (col. 13, line 60; and col. 14, line 9-20); and a clearance regulating member provided so as to be free from contact with a surface of the developer carrying member, where the clearance regulating member regulates a clearance for an upper side of the developer carrying member, and it is inherent that the clearance has a width not smaller than the developing width on the developer carrying member (figure 6), wherein the clearance between the developer carrying member and the clearance regulating member is determined at a size not greater than a maximum height of the developer projected from the surface of the developer carrying member (figure 6). The developer carrying member is configured to have magnetic poles (23a, 23b, 23c, 23d, 23e). The clearance for the developer carrying member provided by the clearance regulating member is determined at a size not greater than a height of a magnetic brush of the developer at a magnetic pole just downstream of a clearance regulated position in terms of rotation of the developer carrying member, and at a size not greater than a gap between the developer carrying member and the photosensitive member (figure 6). A position where the clearance is regulated by the clearance regulating member is

Art Unit: 2852

located between a magnetic developing pole (23b) and a magnetic pole (23d) located downstream of the magnetic developing pole in terms of rotation of the developer carrying member (figure 6).

Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tabuchi et al. (US 4,338,880), Nishikawa (US 4,377,334), Hosaka et al. (US 5,001,517), Yamashita et al. (US 5,659,861), Ito et al. (US 5,758,240) and Sudo (JP 09-034265) disclose an image forming apparatus including a developing unit.

Contacts | Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sandra L. Brase whose telephone number is (703) 308-0725.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur T. Grimley, can be reached on (703) 308-1373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431 or 305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Sandra L. Brase
Sandra L. Brase
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

March 22, 2002